

Support grows in S.F.

Guardian West Coast Bureau

San Francisco

This past week has seen an unprecedented expression of outrage and support for the Black Panther party in the San Francisco Bay area as a result of the Los Angeles police department attack on the Panther office there Dec. 8.

Several hundred supporters assembled outside of Panther offices in San Francisco and Berkeley the day of the Los Angeles gunfight in response to rumors of possible police attack. The San Francisco Panther office reported an unusual number of police were concentrated in the area. A police helicopter was seen hovering above the office. At the same time, 150 people gathered outside national Panther headquarters in Berkeley.

The vigils continued throughout the week on a 24-hour-a-day basis. At week's end, they became more organized and a system of chain telephone calls was being introduced to ensure the presence of at least 20 supporters at all times. The vigil is to be continued indefinitely.

The National Lawyers Guild announced that there will be attorneys present on a 24-hour-a-day basis at both offices. In a statement Dec. 11, the Bay Area chapter of the Guild declared: "The so-called violent record of the Panthers is a myth. The violence associated with the Panthers as an organization has come from police attacks on the Panthers."

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